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12/17/02

US Dept. of Agriculture  
Livestock and Seed Programs  
Agriculture Marketing Service  
Stop 0249 Room 2092-S  
Washington DC 20250-0249

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to address the proposal to purchase irradiated foods for commodity purchase programs. I feel that it would be a benefit our school lunch program to include irradiated foods as an option.

I understand that irradiation has been studied extensively for the past 50 years. I read a comment from Dr. Michael Osterholm, director of the University of Minnesota Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy that stated more research has been done on irradiation than any other food processing technology, including canning and freezing.

I see it as a further preventative for food borne illnesses. I have three children in public schools at this time and it believe this is just one more step that can be taken along with the food safety steps already in place, to ensure that they have safe products to eat daily.

I think the initial consumer acceptance at the retail level and in food service also shows that we as a country support the use of irradiated foods.

Please support irradiated foods for the commodity purchase programs.

Sincerely,



Andrea L. Mitchell